

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 TRSE-00 SIL-01 LAB-04 CIAE-00

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R 271315Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2645

INFO AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRN, DR, US

SUBJECT: LAW TO CREATE PRIVATELY-OWNED MERCHANT MARINE

REF: SANTO DOMINGO 5147

1. ACCORDING TO VARIOUS SOURCES, INCLUDING THE DIRECTOR OF GODR'S CENTER FOR EXPORT PROMOTION (CEDOPEX), FERNANDO PERICHE VIDAL, A GODR COMMISSION HAS JUST SUBMITTED TO THE PRESIDENT A DRAFT-LAW PROVIDING FOR VARIOUS INCENTIVES TO CREATE PRIVATELY-OWNED DOMINICAN MARITIME SHIPPING COMPANIES.

2. THE DRAFT-LAW STIPULATES THAT 40 PERCENT OF THE COUNTRY'S IMPORTS AND EXPORTS MUST BE SHIPPED IN VESSELS OWNED OR LEASED BY DOMINICANS, AND IN CASE OF CARGOES ENJOYING DOMINICAN TARIFF EXONERATIONS, 50 PERCENT MUST BE SO SHIPPED. THE DRAFT-LAW ALSO PROVIDES FOR VARIOUS TAX EXONERATIONS AND INCENTIVES FOR INVESTMENTS IN SHIPS REGISTERED UNDER THE DOMINICAN FLAG, AND DECLARES IT TO BE IN THE NATIONAL INTEREST TO DEVELOP A NATIONAL SHIP-CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY.

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3. IN ADDITION, THE DRAFT-LAW CALLS FOR THE CREATION OF A DOMINICAN MERCHANT MARINE DIRECTORATE (DIRECCION DE MARINA MERCANTE DOMINICANA), AND ANTICIPATES CREATION OF A MERCHANT MARINE TRAINING ACADEMY.

4. THE COMMISSION STUDYING THE QUESTION OF A DOMINICAN MERCHANT FLEET IS COMPOSED OF PERICHE; CARLOS J. SELIMAN, SECRETARY OF FINANCE; COMMODORE FRANCISCO AMIAMA CASTILLO, UNDER SECRETARY OF THE ARMED FORCES; AND ING. GEORGE ARZENO BRUGAL, PRESIDENT OF THE SANTO DOMINGO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

5. THE DR ALREADY HAS SOME VERY SMALL SHIPPING COMPANIES, SUCH AS STEPHEN Y STEPHEN, AGENCIA DOMINICANA DE NAVEGACION, MARITIMA SANTO DOMINGO, JOSE MA. FRANCO Y CIA., AND SIRAGUSA C. POR A. A FEW WEEKS AGO A MORE SIGNIFICANT LINE, SERVICIO NACIONAL DE TRANSPORTE MARITIMO (SERVIMAR), WAS FORMED WITH TWO CONTAINER SHIPS, THE CARIBBEAN VENTURE AND THE SWIFT ARROW. ROBERTO PRATS, A PROMINENT DOMINICAN BUILDER, IS TREASURER OF THE FIRM, AND SEATRAN IS ACTING AS THE LINE'S AGENTS IN THE US. RAMON BAEZ AND JAAK RANNIK, OWNERS OF A LOCAL SHIPPING AGENCY, BAEZ AND RANNIK, HAVE JOINED WITH ANOTHER SHIPPING AGENCY, SCHAD, TO FORM ON PAPER THE LINEA DOMINICANA DE VAPORES.

6. COMMENT: THE COMMISSION SUBMITTING THE DRAFT-LAW APPEARS TO BE THE SAME GROUP WHICH HAS THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR CARRYING ON DISCUSSIONS WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NEWLY-CREATED, STATE-OWNED, PUERTO RICAN MARITIME SHIPPING AUTHORITY (SEE REFTTEL). PERICHE RE-AFFIRMED GODR POSITION AS SELIMAN RELATED IT TO VISITING PUERTO RICAN OFFICIAL IN DECEMBER TO THE EFFECT THAT GODR IS NOT RPT NOT INTERESTED IN STATE-OWNED MERCHANT FLEET FOR THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC. PERICHE ALSO SAID THAT PUERTO RICANS HAD NOT THUS FAR RETURNED AS PLANNED FOR A SECOND VISIT. IT WOULD SEEM, HOWEVER, THE THE DOMINICANS ARE PUSHING AHEAD WITH PLANS FOR THEIR OWN SHIPPING LINES, WITH, OR WITHOUT, THE PUERTO RICANS.
HURWITCH

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